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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *Auguſt* the 5th, 1756.

THOUGH the firſt of the following lettters bears a little hard upon the ladies, for whom I have always profeſſed a regard even to veneration, yet I am induced to give it a place in my paper, from the conſideration that if the complaint contained in it ſhould happen to have the leaſt foundation in truth, they may have an opportunity of adding another proof to the multitudes they are daily giving, that they want only to be told of their errors, to amend them. Of the ſecond letter I ſhall ſay nothing more, than that the expedient propoſed in it to remove the evil complained of, has my entire approbation.

To

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

WITH as much devotion for the fair as any man, and as high a ſenſe of the happineſs they are capable of imparting, I have reſolved to die an old batchelor; yet not in the leaſt determined by the ſtrongeſt arguments againſt matrimony, or the moſt faſhionable motives to a ſingle life. It is my misfortune to eſteem *delicacy*, *œconomy*, *modeſty*, and ſome of the qualifications conveyed under the idea of *notable*, as the moſt engaging ornaments of a well-bred woman. How unhappy then am I, that none of theſe ſhould be of repute in the preſent age!

I HAD once formed a deſign of tranſporting myſelf to Spain or China, for a lady of the *domeſtic* kind; but giving the preference to thoſe of my own country, I delayed my intention, till I ſhould ſee the influence your weekly admonitions were attended with. I am now ſorry to find, that notwithſtanding your cenſorial dignity, they have openly dared to perſiſt in thoſe faſhions you have ſo long oppoſed. An unaccountable propenſity to viſit public places, a general nakedneſs of ſhoulders, a remarkable bluffneſs of face, a loud voice, and a maſculine air, have lately gained much ground in the country; and I am apt to think I ſhall ſhortly ſee the necks and boſoms of my fair country-women painted with devices of birds and beaſts, in imitation of the ancient Britons, though they are now contented with plain white and red.

I HAVE obſerved, that as we are gradually retreating from the courage and greatneſs of our ſex, the ladies are advancing with haſty ſtrides upon us; and whether we ſhall long maintain the pre-eminence is a point much liable to diſpute.

I CANNOT

I CANNOT but ſuſpect them of entertaining deſigns of invading the province of man; and though I acknowledge their boundleſs power, I never was formed to obey, and cannot think of ſubmiſſion. But admitting that the preſent generation of beauties are totally unfit for wives, except to thoſe gentle minds, who would think themſelves honoured by having their thouſands ſpent in the genteeleſt manner, yet in another capacity they might be made of the greateſt ſervice to their country. When I ſee their hair tied in a knot behind, or either hanging down in a ramellie, or folded up in ribbons, I cannot but look on them as the fair defenders of Britain, on whoſe gallantry I ſhould rather chuſe to rely, than on all the boaſted proweſs of our military Beaux. On this footing I can excuſe them for ſacrificing the thouſand nameleſs powers of pleaſing which nature has inveſted them with, for the powers of deſtroying, and conſent to their changing the darts of Cupid for the armour of Mars. Whatever magazines of lightening are laid up in their bright eyes, I hope they will blaze out on this occaſion.

IF it ſhould be objected that we ought to have proofs of their valour, and that a big look may be conſiſtent with a faint heart; I anſwer that there can be no great reaſon to doubt the bravery of thoſe, who have made it one of their firſt maxims "never to be afraid of man": and beſides, that natural love of conqueſt which poſſeſſes every individual of the female world, would animate them forward to the boldeſt enterprizes. I would further propoſe, that the more gay and airy of them ſhould be diſtributed into a body offlying light-horſe; the Gadabouts would make an excellent company of foragers; the more delicate of them would ſerve to carry the colours, and the ſight of them would inſpire the ſoldiers with unequalled

qualed reſolution and courage. Thus they might all be diſpoſed in ranks and ſtations ſuitable to their reſpective merits, diſtinctions and qualifications, from the firſt lady of quality, to the loweſt female belle in the country village. I ſhould alſo adviſe, that a ſufficient number of female tranſports ſhould be ſent to the relief of our garriſons abroad, if it was not from my apprehenſions that they would not be able to ſuſtain a long ſiege, and might perhaps be captivated by the immenſe fineneſs of an embroidered knight of the order of St. Louis. I have only one circumſtance more to mention to excite their zeal, which is, that they muſt be obliged to content themſelves with their own invented faſhions, till the ſucceſſes of their arms ſhall oblige the French to accept of our wealth for thoſe that are alamode de Paris.

If this propoſal be agreeable to your judgment, I hope you will ſecond it by the warmeſt encouragements. May we not exult in the proſpect of that glorious career of ſucceſs which muſt attend an army of heroines, bred to a contempt of danger, and trained up from infancy itſelf to the moſt intimate acquaintance with *balls*, *drums*, *routs*, *hurricanes*, and the like?

I am,

SIR,

Your humble ſervant,

A. SINGLETON.

Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

I HAVE a complaint to lay before you, which, to the beſt of my memory, you have not hitherto touched upon. The ground of my complaint, ſir, is this. News, you know, never was more fluctuating than at this moment. What we are told at breakfaſt is contradicted by noon, and that again is old by dinner; the dinner-tale

ſcarcely

ſcarcely laſts till coffee, and all is found to be falſe before night. And yet, ſir, there are a ſet of wiſemen, who are always ſatisfied with the laſt tale, and conſtantly aſſure you they were all along of that opinion. "Lord "ſir, I knew it muſt be ſo; how could it be otherwiſe? "I always ſaid ſo:" and though accounts vary to-morrow, it does not at all affect them; for to-morrow they will have been all along perfectly well acquainted with juſt the contrary to what they knew ſo well to day. This everlaſting knowledge and ſecret intelligence is really, ſir, a moſt provoking inſult on us poor things, who are not ſo knowing. If I am wrong to day, my friend is wrong to-morrow, and that puts us on an equality; but theſe people, who are always ſure to be of the right opinion, becauſe they have no opinion at all, are not to be endured.

BUT it is one thing to complain, and another to redreſs; and unleſs I thought I had ſome method to remedy the evil, I would not complain of it. The remedy I would propoſe is ſimply this; that the term *I* be for ever excluded all converſations. There is not, perhaps, one ſingle impertinence or foppery in diſcourſe, that is not imputable to that ſame little letter *I*. The old man, going to repeat the lie he has talked himſelf into a belief of, cries, *I* remember when *I* was young. The maiden of fifty bleſſes her ſtars, and ſays, *I* was not ſuch a flirt. The bold colonel, tells you *I* led on the men, *I* entered the breach. The rake, *I* debauched ſuch a girl, *I* drank down ſuch a fellow. Now, ſir, fond as people are of being fooliſh, they would even conſent to be wiſe, if it was not for confining their follies to their own dear perſons. The old man's dull ſtory is only to let you ſee what *he* was himſelf. The maiden gentlewoman only

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